

### **New Retirement Services Officer**

Mr. Ivor Watson, the new chief of the Military Personnel Division for U. S. Army Garrison Heidelberg. As an additional duty, he is also the new Retirement Services Officer (RSO) as well as being a member of the USAG Heidelberg Retiree Council. Mr. Watson replaced Mr. Dominic Buther who returned to the United States at the end of January 2009. Mr. Watson is a retired Sergeant Major with experience in human resources management. He recently attended a training course that focused on RSO and Survivor Benefit Plan duties. Additionally, he has access to the Defense Retired/Annuitant Pay System, a DFAS System.

### **USAG Retirement Services Office**

Any military retiree or surviving spouse of a military retiree needing retirement services should call the US Army Garrison Heidelberg Retirement Services Office. SSG (R) George Hall, our garrison retirement services officer volunteer, is in the office on a full-time basis, Monday through Friday. His telephone number is DSN 370-8236 or from a civilian phone, 06221-57-8236.

### **Retiree Council Newsletter via Email**

We now have 107 people who receive this newsletter via email. For those of you who have an email address and still receive a paper copy of the newsletter, we can add you to the email distribution list. Send an email to L-M.Applebaum@t-online.de with the subject line "Retiree Council Newsletter via Email" and we will add you to the list.

### **The Next Retiree Council Meeting**

The next Council meeting will be held at 1200 hours on Saturday, 23 May 2009 at the Goldener Hirsch Restaurant, Schwetzingenstrasse 29, Heidelberg-Kirchheim. All retirees, widowed spouses of retirees, family members and their guests are invited to attend.

The program will include a presentation by Mr. Todd Hoover, director, Heidelberg Army Wellness Center.

To help us better plan the meeting and buffet lunch, please call or email your reservations to MSG (R) Robert McCoy, 06205-16421 (Email bimccoy@hotmail.com or to LTC (R) Larry Applebaum 06224-52741 (Email: L-M.Applebaum@t-online.de) by Wednesday, 20 May 2009.

### **Membership in Professional Organizations**

During our time on active duty, many of us held membership in one or more professional organizations that were military oriented. The focus of these organizations is maintaining a strong national defense and preserving the earned entitlements of members and retirees of the various services as well as their families and survivors. These organizations working together form a very strong lobby that works to encourage the Administration and Congress to support important benefit and entitlement issues. You can join these organizations via the Internet.

<http://www.ncoausa.org/>; <http://www.moaa.org>; <http://www.ausa.org> The monthly magazines keep you up to date on the various issues and also include very interesting articles and features.

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